



# TRINITY TIDINGS

## May 2025

Believing in Christ, we are called to grow and sent to serve.

### *Thinking Out Loud With Pastor Josh*

Rogation Weekend May 3 & 4

Make it Known! Throughout Easter

There's a bumper sticker on my office door that reads "Keep Church Weird." I've had that sticker for nearly my entire career. A friend and professional (Lutheran) musician gave out those stickers to his audience because he wanted everyone who followed him to know how weird forgiveness is. And by that measure, how weird our Lutheran way of thinking, praying, and loving our neighbors can be.

The Bible tells us that grace is a free gift from God, and that forgiveness is given by God without strings. The very act of confession and repentance only happens because the Holy Spirit finds us where we are and turns us back to God. Our connection to Christ is unbreakable. Through baptism, it is eternal.

That's really weird. Nothing in this life is like that. Everything else about us, and many ideas made about us, are created with expectations, demands, and limits. Our identity as people of God, which is never questioned by God, is regularly challenged and examined based on all sorts of arbitrary, and sometimes cruel, measures. Human standards, not divine.

The Church is human, and thus, deeply marked by sin. We know that and confess it. The Church is also designed by Christ to be profoundly weird because, at least at Trinity, you can come as you are (as God created you) and hear that the promise of life given to all people is equally, fully given to you. Given. Not held out of reach or supplied after its earned. Given. Freely. Abundantly. Absolutely.

So weird. We are flawed and imperfect (so much imperfection), and we are forgiven and freed to love because we are unconditionally loved by God who created us in God's image.

This is a good season to remember the infinity of God's grace, revealed through an empty tomb and a promise that nothing, not sin or swords or hateful words—not even death—can keep us from God's love. May you know this promise is for you.

Trust in God's Grace.  
Pr Josh Ehrler

### **Ministry Staff**

**Ministers** All members of Trinity

**Pastor Josh Ehrler**

Office: 815-734-6354, Ext 1001  
prjoshehrler@gmail.com

**Office Manager Teri Ulferts**

Office: 815-734-6354, Ext 1002  
trinitymmooffice@gmail.com

**Sexton Floyd Drumheller**

Office: 815-734-6354

**Christian Education Director**

Melissa Rojas

815-440-0279

melissa8305@gmail.com

**Music Coordinator Karen Larson**

219-309-4405

karens Larson@gmail.com

### **Musicians**

Lisa Suttman

lesuttman@icloud.com

815-821-4871

K-Rae Knowles

krae.knowles@gmail.com

815-441-9889

**Chime Choir Director**

Dr. Matt Guschl

217-417-5952

matt.guschl@gmail.com

**Financial Secretary**

Louise Suttman

815-938-2650

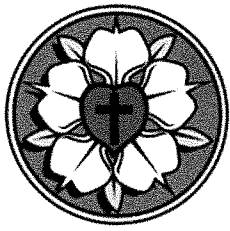
815-541-0320

louisesuttman@gmail.com

**Assistant Financial Secretary**

Lily Welp

815-973-1696



# The Month of May

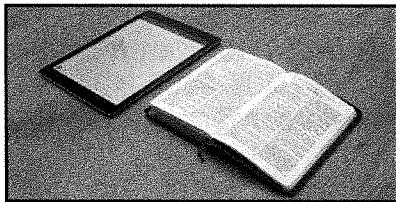
## Worship At Trinity

*Make it Known!*

Christ is risen and life is promised for all of Creation. This is not meant to be a secret we keep behind walls, Jesus calls on the disciples (that's us!) to proclaim his good news for all of our neighbors. This revelation is especially vital for any of our neighbors who have been told their lives have less value or importance, or who find it hard to be in community. Our voice, and presence, can be a visible sign of God's nearness and compassion. During May, we'll celebrate life by blessing our seeds and soil May 4, offering a prayer for faithful women May 11, give thanks for our graduates May 18, and consider how we can use our voices for others May 25.

## Trinity Reads the Bible

*James*

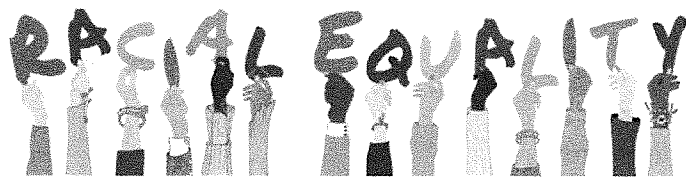


James is one of the few books of the Bible that Martin Luther wanted removed. Definitely not a fan, which makes it all the more fun to read. Luther kept James in the Bible, it's a very

interesting book besides that historical tidbit, and it may have some inspiration for us as we consider the gift of life we know through Christ's resurrection.

## Racial Justice Team at Trinity

*Sunday, May 4, 10:45 a.m.*



The Racial Justice team of Trinity will have our first meeting after worship Sunday, May 4. The plan is simply to meet, get a sense of what we can do, and set a schedule to hold ourselves accountable to the work. We'll meet in the basement.

## Trinity's Core Values

1. We believe Jesus Christ is our Savior and Lord.
2. We are a faith community striving to create a safe space inclusive and accepting of God's people, regardless of race, gender, orientation, age, or status.
3. We learn as we teach, sharing our faith and being an example of Christ in our community.
4. In partnership with our Lutheran synod, neighboring congregations, and civic organizations, we enrich the quality of life of God's people through our resources, time, and skills.
5. We offer worship experiences centered on God's Word and the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.
6. We remain open to new opportunities and to experiencing new perspectives.



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



## News And Learning



The church office will be closed on Friday during the months of June, July & August. The office

hours are Monday—Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

### Floyd's Retirement Party

*June 14, after Outdoor Worship*

Floyd Drumheller, who began working as our Sexton (property manager) May 14, 1982, retires from service May 31, 2025. Help us celebrate Floyd, who has been so much for so many at Trinity across the past 43 (!) years. We're throwing a party for Floyd immediately after our Joint Worship Saturday, June 14. We will not let him disappear without showering him with our love and appreciation.

### May Trinity Night!

For our final Trinity Night this school year on May 7th, we will be participating in the Oregon Elementary School Family Picnic Night! We will have a table where we will hand out water and Capri Suns to the families that attend. We would love to have as many Trinity people participate as possible. This will also be a great opportunity to get the word out about our upcoming summer camps, SG2W, and VBS.

Talk to Melissa if you would like to know more about how you can help!



### Be the Church Weekend at LOMC May 25 (24,26)

This Spring we're going to LOMC to help prep camp for summer. LOMC is offering three work opportunities across the weekend, and Council inviting us to consider going Sunday after worship. If you can't make Sunday, sign up for one of the other two options. Sign up sheets will be around the church. We'll set up ridesharing for those who go after worship. Projects include: mulching, flower bed cleaning, light construction, and trail work.



### Strong Girls 2 Women 2025

*Strong Girls Under the Sea!*



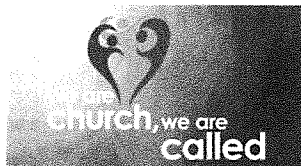
SG2W is June 23-26, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Our camp is designed to inspire and empower strong girls going into grades 4-6 with games, activities, and direct interaction with women leaders from a

diverse array of backgrounds. Our theme this year reminds us that each of us has infinite potential just under the surface. We'll spend our time finding what excites us and imagine what we are capable of while building relationships.

The cost of registration is \$20 per family. Use the QR code to register for camp. The deadline for registration is May 10, so sign up quick.



**Remember strong girls, I AM ENOUGH!**



# Works of Trinity

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## Reflect – Pray – Give

*While You're Away*

May brings us one of the unofficial markers of summer, Memorial Day weekend. Our thoughts and time drifts to vacation spots, summer tournaments, and leaving behind the routines of the year. As you go do all the very fun things that you can, we invite you to remember Trinity in your planning, specifically, your financial plans. It's not unusual to see declines in giving through the summer months, mainly because we all do the summer thing. And giving is often prompted by connection. When we're in worship, we remember to give. When we're away, giving is not on our minds. Consider setting up automatic payments, or writing a note next to the checkbook for when you pay your bills. Enjoy your summer and do all the things. We can't wait to hear your stories. As you can, consider sending in your offering to continue the work we do for our community throughout the year.

REFLECT on the gift of reliability that Trinity offers to everyone.

PRAY for the staff, worshippers, and neighbors who gather each week.

GIVE when you are able while you're away.

Use this QR code for electronic giving to Trinity's ministry.



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## Joint Worship Services This Summer!

We're bringing back joint worship services. This means, when we're holding a joint service on a particular Saturday or Sunday, there is only one service that weekend. We have four joint services planned, all of them outdoors. Note these days and dates and be sure to tell your friends. Our joint services are designed to be very casual, easy to follow, and fun.

Saturday, June 14, 5:30 p.m. (No Sunday worship)

Sunday, August 10, 10:00 a.m. at LOMC (No Saturday worship)

Saturday, August 23, 5:30 p.m. (No Sunday worship)

Sunday, September 14, 9:30 a.m. – Block Party (No Saturday worship)



K-Rae and her helper Callan on the first joint service in 2024.

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## New Church Shirt

Just in time for warmer weather, summer fun, and all the places we'll go. Show off your faith community, and spread a little love to our neighbors, in a brand new tee shirt. Samples will be available in the hall between the worship space and offices, and an order form with all the details will be nearby. Let's get the word out about the wideness of God's love in style.



# Works of Trinity

## Ministry in Focus:

### *Loaves and Fish*

Your noisy giving for May will be used to buy ground beef for Loaves and Fish, our food pantry in Mt Morris. This has been a well-received offering since meat is expensive for pantries to regularly stock, which means it is often too expensive for pantry clients to afford. The more we raise, the more meat can be ordered for Loaves and Fish and distributed back to our neighbors.

Use this QR code for electronic Giving to Trinity's ministry.

Thank you for your generosity.



## Donations Dispersed for the Quarter Ending Mar. 31, 2025

### From the Operating Budget:

Northern IL Synod Benevolence \$ 3,000.00

### From Offering Envelope Donations:

Northern IL Synod—World Hunger \$ 140.00

Loaves & Fish Food Pantry \$ 165.00

Lifeline Food Pantry \$ 85.00

Family Assistance Fund \$1,285.00

TELC Youth \$ 90.00

### From Other Resources:

Hiteman Scholarship Awards \$4,000.00

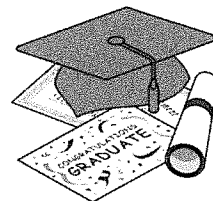
Global Refuge (Noisy Offering) \$ 438.32

LOMC (Noisy Offering ) \$ 523.87

Thank you to the following people who designated Thrivent Choice Dollars to Trinity during the quarter ending March 31st.

Robert A. Baker	Valerie Glotfelty
Sherri L. Baker	Dennis Hoffmeister
Janice Christ	Carol Hurlbut
Daniel Dilbeck	Roger Hurlbut
Mary Jo Dilbeck	Cynthia Link
David Link	Marcia Mongan
Arlene Sangmeister	Craig Suttman
Bruce Obendorf	

## Calling All Graduates



We'd like to honor everyone completing 8th grade, high school, college, grad school or a specialized program. Please give your name and from where and what you're graduating to [trinitymmooffice@gmail.com](mailto:trinitymmooffice@gmail.com) or 815-734-6354 **by May 11.**

## VBS 2025!

VBS will be held on July 15 through July 17. Watch for more details in next months newsletter and bulletins

## April Council Highlights

- The council approved a \$125.00 donation to the Mount Morris Jamboree.
- The council approved a \$1,250.00 donation to the Rocky Boy ministries.
- The Worship committee reported that the Living Last Supper presentation on Maundy Thursday was well received.
- A meeting will be held on May 13th at 6:30 to discuss the reformation of the Trinity men's group.

## Financial Report: March 2025

Total Monthly Budget Income	\$ 22,171.50
Total Monthly Budget Expense	\$ 21,049.48
Year-to-date Budget Income	\$ 52,192.87
Year-to-date Budget Expense	\$ 61,580.14
Year-to-date Income Surplus (Deficit)	\$ ( 9,387.27)

Trinity offers electronic giving free for members who wish to have their contribution debited automatically from a checking or savings account. Forms are available in the office.



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
308 East Brayton Road  
Mount Morris, IL 61054

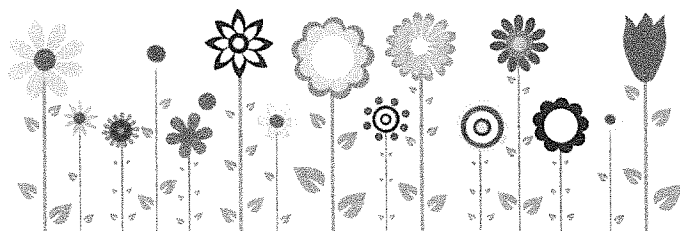
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### Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

308 East Brayton Road, Mt. Morris, Illinois 61054 | 815-734-6354  
trinitymmoffice@gmail.com | www.trinitymmil.net | facebook.com/tlcmm

## MAY 2025



### Important Dates to Note

**Later in life workshop**—May 3  
**May Day & Rogation**—May 3 & 4  
**Last Sunday School until Fall**—May 4  
**Blood Pressure check**—May 4  
**TWELCA Spring Tea**—May 4  
**Racial Justice meeting**—May 4  
**Last Trinity Night until Fall**—May 7  
**Be The Church at LOMC**—May 25  
**Memorial Day/Offices closed**—May 26

### Loaves & Fish Food Pantry

409 W. Brayton Rd., Mt. Morris, IL 61054.  
(Lower level of the Church of the Brethren.)

Hours: 1st & 3rd Thur. 3:30 – 6 p.m.  
2nd & 4th Mon. 2 – 4:30 p.m.

Anyone in Mt. Morris or Leaf River experiencing food insecurity is eligible. Do not need a referral or proof of income. If questions, contact 815-613-8776 or [www.facebook.com/LFpantryMM](https://www.facebook.com/LFpantryMM).

### Lifeline Food Pantry

201 N. 3rd St., Suite 6, Oregon, IL 61061. Contact them at 815-732-7891. (Oregon residents only.)

Hours: Mon. & Wed. closed  
Tue. 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. (food only)  
Thur. 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. (food & clothing)  
Fri. 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. (food & clothing)  
Sat. 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (clothing only)